

HOW TO CONQUER THE POETRY WORLD WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THE WORMWOOD REVIEW

1. Get accepted.
2. Become a regular.
3. Get a center section.
4. Get a chapbook.
5. Repeat.

That was my plan. I worked toward it aggressively for three years. That's how much WR and Marvin Malone meant to me as a poet. I truly believed it could and would happen to me.

But I came in too late in the game. I never got my chance and yes I do feel cheated. Isn't that what death does? Cheats the living. So I'm a selfish bastard for actually being mad at Malone for dying, especially after he'd decided to continue WR for another three years. Three years, I thought, I can still get a center section. Three years? The 21 poems I have on file could appear over three years. It can happen, it can still all happen. But it wouldn't.

What I do have from those three years I'll never lose. The dealings I had with WR, with Marvin Malone, as a poet are my most treasured memories. The 21 accepted poems, the two WR appearances (in #s 138 & 144), the comments, criticisms, advice, and occasional compliment meant the world to me and always will. I didn't lose a friend or a father or a husband. I never met Marvin Malone, or even spoke to him, but he touched my life, a very important part of my life. I want to thank him for that.

When I got the last issue of WR, I also got back the last batch of poems I sent to Marvin. Among the poems were five that had penciled check marks at the top of the page. I knew from experience that these were "possibles." I wondered, would they have been accepted? I'd like to think so. It still means the world to me.

—Mark Begley
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